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RUTHERFORD AT AUDITORIUM SAYS WORLD HAS BEGUN

Pastor Russell's Successor Declares New Age Has Begun and Death Will Soon Cease

Judge J. F. Rutherford, president of the International Bible Students' Association, and successor of the late Pastor Russell, spoke here last night in the Municipal auditorium to an audience that packed the house to the doors. For nearly two hours he was accorded the closest attention, as he expounded the Bible prophecies which he explained to now be in course of fulfillment. The world war and the Bolshevist movement which has followed it he declared to be clearly portrayed in the Old Testament prophecies.

With seven others, also officers and leaders of the International Bible Students' Association, Judge Rutherford was sentenced last June in Brooklyn, New York, to two years in the federal penitentiary at Atlanta, Georgia, for having published "The Unfinished Mystery," a Bible commentary on the prophecies of Revelation and Ezekiel, certain passages of which were declared to be in conflict with the Espionage act, although it was claimed by the defense that the book was written in accordance with instructions left by Pastor Russell before his death and was in the printer's hands before the espionage law was passed by Congress, and before this country entered the war. It was also claimed in behalf of the defendants that opposition to "The Unfinished Mystery" had been instigated by the clergy, who had antipathy toward it on purely religious grounds. Rutherford and his seven associates were released on bail in March after spending nine months in the Atlanta penitentiary. The case is now pending in the circuit court of appeals.

THE END OF THE WORLD.

The speaker in part said:

For nineteen centuries students of Divine prophecy have looked for the world to end. To now state positively that that event has occurred is rather startling in view of what has been taught in the past. I expect many clergymen to take issue with me on this question, for the reason that they have viewed it from a different standpoint. The great John Calvin taught that upon the happening of this momentous event, Jesus would return to earth, that he would sit upon a cloud, which cloud would emit fire, and which fire would totally destroy everything on earth except the wicked, and that the wicked would be provided with immortal bodies so that their torture might be eternal. Many clergymen, believing that Calvin was a profound Bible student, have followed his line of thought and have taught what he taught.

The more modern clergymen differ in their views, some saying that if the world ever ends at all, that event is so many years distant in the future that it is not worth while to consider it. The majority insist that the present order will continue forever. The most of Christian people, however, have been taught that when the world ends, the earth will be destroyed.

THE EARTH ABIDES FOREVER.

The only method of determining a question of this kind is from the Bible itself, and the Scriptures plainly teach: "Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens, God himself, he hath established it, he created it, not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited." "The earth abideth forever." (Isaiah 45:18, Eccl. 1:4.) There is a wide distinction between the words "world" and "earth." The word "world," as generally used in the Scriptures, has no reference to the material globe, but means the condition of society, or the order of things prevailing during a stated period of time. St. Peter describes the first world, which endured from Adam to the flood, and which was destroyed by water. The second world began at the time of the flood, and the Apostle states that it is to be destroyed; the Apostle adding that it will be destroyed by fire. In biblical symbolism, fire is a symbol of destruction. It does not necessarily mean literal fire, but a fiery time of trouble, destroying the old order of things and bringing in the new.

THE TIME OF THE END.

The Divine mind, foreknowing the end from the beginning, foretold the principal events that have happened, his prophecies of old recorded these events, and their sayings we call prophecy. Prophecy is in fact the history of the world written in advance. The student of prophecy is charged to interpret it in the light of

history. For instance, Jehovah caused the prophet Daniel to record in brief the history of the world from the beginning of the Gentile dominion until the coming of Messiah's Kingdom. Daniel said: "I heard but I understood not." In other words, he was an instrument in Jehovah's hands. God told him at that time to seal up the words of the prophecy until "the time of the end," and stated that a proof that would mark the time of the end would be the great running to and fro in the earth and an increase of knowledge. For the past 50 years especially, man has witnessed the marvelous development of rapid transit by steam, electricity and other motive power, and the wonderful increase of knowledge in various lines, all of which mark the fulfillment of the prophecy spoken by Daniel.

THE NEW WORLD.
Our purpose in this argument is to prove by competent testimony that the old world, meaning the old order of things, has come to an end and is passing away, that the new world and new order of things is being inaugurated, that the old world has been a time in which wrong-doing, oppression and suffering predominated, that the new order will gradually reverse this condition and will ultimately establish peace universal, happiness universal, and the blessings of life everlasting to all who will render themselves in obedience to the righteous laws of the new order. If the evidence does establish such as true, then it ought to be a great anchor of hope to mankind in this hour of stress. Our purpose in presenting this argument is to bring hope to the hearts of a distressed people.

GENTILE TIMES.

The Jews were God's chosen people for many centuries, and He dealt with them to the exclusion of all others. He used them to picture or foreshadow other events to transpire on a far greater scale. He announced that his favor would be shown to the Gentiles and that this period should be one of seven symbolic times. A "time" in the Scripture is 360 years; and seven of these would be 2520 years, which mark the length of the Gentile dominion. This period had its beginning when Nebuchadnezzar, by Jehovah's permission, established the first universal Gentile government, 605 B. C. Necessarily then, this period ended in the fall of 1914, A. D. Technically speaking, with reference to time, the old world ended at that date and the old order began to rapidly degenerate, disintegrate.

We now submit a number of Scriptural reasons in proof of the point that the old world or order has ended. Every man who believes in God and who believes the Bible, and that Jesus is the Son of God and that he spoke with authority, must be convinced from this testimony that the old world has ended and that the new one is beginning. Of course, neither critics and teachers of evolution concerning man will not believe. But we submit the testimony of Jesus as the best of all witnesses, and his is corroborated by the testimony of others. Five days before his crucifixion, his disciples approached him privately and asked for this question: "Tell us, what shall be the sign of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3.)

THE WORLD WAR.

We have observed that the Gentile times ended in 1914. In referring to that time, Jesus said: "The nations were angry, and thy wrath is come." Exactly on time, namely, in the autumn season of 1914, the great world-war began.

When the question was propounded to the Master by his disciples, he answered it, but his answer could not be fully understood until the events would transpire, for two reasons: First, he spoke in prophetic language and hence it could not be fully understood until fulfilled, and second, no one could have a clear understanding of it until after they had received spiritual discernment. But now, in the light of history, any reverential student of the Lord's Word can understand and appreciate his answers. First, he said:

"Then said Jesus unto them: 'Nation shall arise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in diverse places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.' Most of the nations of Europe and America call themselves 'Christian nations,' and as a whole these nations are designated as 'Christen-

dom.' Notwithstanding each nation claiming to be followers of the Prince of Peace, the past four years has witnessed the rising of these nations against each other, kingdom against kingdom, Catholic against Catholic, Protestant against Protestant, and the past four years have marked the bloodiest conflict the world has ever known. According to the New York Herald, the earth's population is 1,691,751,000. The total population of all the neutral countries of the earth amounted to less than 200,000,000. In other words, practically the whole world was involved, either directly or indirectly, in this great war. Such an event was never before recorded in history. This world-conflict conclusively establishes the first proof given by Jesus by which we could determine that we had reached the end of the old world, or the old order.

JEWS TO PALESTINE.

The time came when the Jews, God's chosen people, were cast off from His favor. And as further answer to the question as to when the world would end, Jesus said concerning the Jews: "They shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." Seeing, then, that the Gentile times ended in 1914, we could expect some marked evidence of God's favor returning to the Jews about that time.

Both Jew and Gentile have looked for the return of the Jew to Palestine to mark the end of the old world and the coming of Messiah's Kingdom. Nathan Strauss, the grand old man of American Jewry, in a speech at Cooper Union, New York, delivered in 1915 after the beginning of the world-war, said: "We are living in the age when we are about to realize the two-thousand-year-old hope of the Jewish people, and I am especially glad that we are witnessing the spectacle of the whole world applauding and approving and supporting our great purpose to re-establish the Jewish people on their own soil."

REMOVING HOPES.

Jesus likened the Jewish nation to a fig tree, saying that "when the leaves begin to put forth its buds, you know that the summer is nigh, even at the door." In corroboration of this, the prophet of Jehovah (Jeremiah 16:13-18) shows that when the Jews in establishing themselves in Palestine, the American Jewish Chronicle, commenting upon this, said: "It is clear that this document means the turning point in Jewish history and may inaugurate a new and glorious chapter in the life of our people. It is by no means pure accident that two mighty Anglo-Saxon nations, Great Britain and the United States, should be the first among the great powers to recognize the Jews' right to a national homeland of their own."

When Jerusalem fell into the hands of the British army, this, together with the great influx of Jews to Palestine, caused a few clergymen to meet in London and issue a manifesto, which was published throughout the world, to the effect that the return of the Jew to Palestine indicates the near establishment of the Lord's Kingdom and the end of the world.

An enterprising reporter of the Chicago Herald interviewed a large number of clergymen on the question, almost all of whom scoffed at the thought. Many of them said, "I feel the present war has no more bearing on the second coming of Christ than other wars and revolutions have had." In other words, "things continue as they were from the beginning."

"Why is this so? Why is it the clergymen this scoff?" many ask. The Apostle Peter answers: "That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior; knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own desires, and saying, 'Where is the promise of his presence (and the end of the world) for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation. For of this they willingly are ignorant.'"

OTHER SIGNS.

As further proof, Jesus said the true and the false Christian should be separated in the churches side by side and that in the closing days of this world the true would be gathered together unto the Lord and the others would be bound in a church of devils, without regard to truth. He designated this work in the closing of the world as a "harvest," and then plainly said, "The harvest is the end of the world." We now see a clear fulfillment of this, in that true workers are being separated from the false, and the church nominal uniting with other institutions for popularity among men.

GOSPEL TO ALL.

As additional evidence, Jesus said: "The gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come." This has been fulfilled. The Bible has been translated into every known language and

carried to every nation on earth. The clergyman used to tell us that all the world must be converted and brought into the church and then the end would come. But that is not what Jesus said. He stated that the testimony would be given as a witness to the world, and then the end would come.

In further reply to the disciples' query Jesus said: "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be at the end of the world." He then added in substance that the people gave

heavenly shall be shaken." In Revelation, he gives us the key to these symbols; the sun representing the gospel of Jesus Christ; the moon picturing the Mosaic law dispensation; and the stars the great ecclesiastical teachers. How wonderfully this is fulfilled now! The gospel of Messiah's kingdom means that Jesus Christ gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified to all in due time; that during the gospel age the church is selected, and thereafter the benefit of Christ's

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ALL IN THEIR GRAVES SHALL COME FORTH.

Millions have died in the great world war. Many are living today whose hearts are made sad because of the loss of their loved ones. Millions have died from disease and pestilence. Truly the poet has said:

"The earth is old with centuries, But for this she hangs not her head; Closer to her heart the sorrow lies; She holds so many dead."

But hope springs into the heart of one who believes the Lord's word, when he hears the Master's sweet message: "Marvel not all that are in their graves shall come forth." The very purpose of bringing them forth is to give them a fair and impartial trial for life.

The Prophet Job gives a wonderful picture of the restoration of man. There are many old and decrepit and crippled and deformed ones in the world. There are many crippled from the great war